Punitive action by RBI against some Institutions

2271. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to disclose the names of those institutions against whom the Reserve Bank has taken punitive action from time to time;

(b) if so, what kind of institutions are likely to be covered under the proposed scheme and

(c) the purpose behind this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) no punitive action has been taken against any all India financial institution.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Filing Income Tax returns under Section 139(1) of I.T. Act

2272. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHADNRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been prepared for filing return on income under Section 139(1) of the Incomt Tax Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is wide-spread apprehension, particularly among the retired class that it may become an instrument of harassment at the hand of Income-Tax officers; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue instructions to them not to harass the people filing returns under Section 139(1)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A new simplified Return Form (Form No. 2C) has been devised and issued for those who are required to file return of income under the proviso to section 139(1) of the Income-tax Act. The instructions for filling up the aforementioned Form, which have been attached to the return, inter alia, specify who have to file such a return, to which cities the new proviso to section 139(1) is applicable, the last date by which the return should be filed and rates of tax. The guidelines also explain the various steps for filling up the return. These instructions have also been published alongwith the return in all maior newspapers in the country.

(c) It is not correct that any apprehension exists among the retired salaried class that it may become an instrument of harassment at the hands of Income-tax offcers.

(d) There will be no harassment to persons who file returns under the proviso to section 139(1).

Pensionary Benefit Scheme for retired Bank Employees

2273. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pensionary benefits scheme has been introduced for Bank employees effective from 1st November, 1993 and extending this benefit also to those who retired between the period from 1st January,

1986 to 31st October, 1993 after ignoring this benefit to those who retired before 1st January, 1996 under the agreement with the All India Bank Employees Association;

(b) whether several benefits are extended by the Railway, Indian Airlines in IT deduction to senior citizens whereas no pensionary benefits or Ex-Gratia pension has been allowed to the living retirees before 31st December, 1985;

(c) if so, the rationale behind the decision and how Government propose to compensate those living bank retirees; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a), (c) and (d) Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has reported that in pursuance of an understanding reached between IBA (representing Banks' managements) and representatives of bank employees/officers in October, 1993, a pension scheme has been introduced in lieu of contributory provident fund (broadly on the basis of pension scheme applicable to Government/Reserve Bank of India employees) in the public sector banks (except State Bank of India which already had a pension scheme).

In terms of the scheme, employees who were in service on the appointed date had the option either to opt for pension in lieu of contributory provident fund scheme or continue with the contributory provident fund scheme. Employees who joined the bank service on or after 29.9.95 are governed by the pension regulations only. Employees who retired on or after 1.1.1986 are also eligible for pension provided they have given their option and applied for the Scheme within prescribed period and refunded the bank's contribution towards provident fund alongwith interest received with further simple interest @ 6 per cent per annum from the date of withdrawal of the provident fund till the date of refund. The pension scheme is index linked and because of this there are indications that the actual cost of scheme to the banks is going to be more than what was originally estimated.

The employees of aforesaid public sector banks who retired prior to 1.1.1986 are not entitled for the pension. They have already availed the benefit of contributory provident fund. Under the pension regulations 1995, no pensionary benefits or ex-gratia pension is admissible to the living retirees before 1.1.1986 i.e., bank employees who retired before 1.1.1986. The pension scheme in these banks is on the lines of the scheme of Reserve Bank of India which also stipulated the out off date as 1.1.1986. It may be mentioned that when introducing any new scheme, stipulating a cut off date is inevitable.

(b) The information is being collected and to the extent available would be laid on the Table of the House.

Strike by Bank employees

2274. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bank employees in the country have recently gone for a day's strike;

(b) if so, the reasons and the details of their main demand;

(c) the amount of loss suffered by the country due to the strike held on 4th July, 1997; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to avoid such type of strikes in the future?